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was nearly alone in his hostility to the cause of peace; and yet we find almost every where "sporadic cases" of the war-mania even among professed Christians.

WAR-PRAYERS,

OR THE INCONSISTENCY OF WAR WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIANITY.

When the influence of Napoleon had led to a proclamation of war between Sweden and England, though the affair seems never to have gone much beyond a mere proclamation, an additional prayer, Dr. Henderson informs us, was introduced as usual, into the church-service of Sweden to call down wrath and ruin on her enemies, and all worshippers were required of course to pray every Sabbath, if not every day, *against* them. But some of the Christians in Dalecarlin, on finding this war-prayer obtruded upon their devotions, very naturally asked, "Who are our enemies? Against whom must we thus pray?" "The English!" "The English!" they exclaimed in surprise. "It is impossible! The English cannot be our enemies; for they sent us Bibles, and it cannot be that *they* have become our enemies." Those honest-minded people could not pray against such benefactors, and would not rest till they had petitioned the government with success for the discontinuance of the war-prayer in that part of the Swedish dominions.

1. Here is an illustration of the hardships to which the war-system reduces the great mass of Christians through Christendom. In nearly all countries but our own, they are compelled, like those in Sweden, to repeat, at least in all their *public* devotions, a prescribed form of imprecation upon those whom the government in its caprice may choose to call enemies; and thus have the great mass of Christians in every country been tempted, ever since the time of Constantine the Great, to deny in practice the leading principle taught in the sermon on the mount.

2. Here we see the insidious influence of the war-policy in debasing our religion. It dictates to Christians the subject and form of their prayers, and contrives in this way to instil into them a spirit as unlike that of the gospel as hell itself is unlike heaven.

3. This practice, moreover, is a public and most effectual endorsement of the whole war-system by the church of Christ;

and thus have his followers for ages stood before the world as fairly responsible for all the atrocities and horrors inseparable from its continuance.

4. Mark, also, the power of Christians over war, and their consequent obligations. Would *all* Christians in *every* country absolutely refuse to pray against its enemies, or for the success of any war whatever, could the rulers of Christendom ever get their subjects again to butcher one another? And are not the disciples of Christ bound to abstain from all such vindictive prayers?

5. We learn, also, the best security of a nation. It lies in acts of kindness and beneficence. Let Britain spend for the *benefit* of the world one tenth of what her war-system costs her even in a time of peace; and her sea-girt isle would ere-long become so sacred in the regards of all mankind, that no warrior, not even a future Napoleon, would venture, in the certain prospect of universal indignation, and everlasting infamy, to draw his sword against her. The Swedes to whom she had sent Bibles, could not be seduced even to pray against her.

6. The gospel, then, is the grand hope of our cause; the gospel not as belied by warring Christians, but as illustrated by those in Sweden who could not pray against enemies whom Christ teaches us to pray for, and to bless. Raise our religion from its present war-degeneracy, breathe into it the full spirit of the sermon on the mount, and spread it through the world; and *such* a Christianity, wherever it went, would put an end to war, and eventually sweep it from the earth. How different from the actual state of Christianity in Christendom!

IRENÆUS.

How much timber in war-ships.—It is computed that 2000 tons, or 3000 loads of timber, are necessary for a seventy-four of the ordinary size; and, reckoning fifty oaks of one hundred years' standing to the acre, and the quantity in each tree to be one load and a half, it would require forty acres of oak forest to build one such ship! For the largest class of battle-ships, the quantity must be increased in a great ratio; and we are probably safe in supposing that the famous ship *Pennsylvania*, launched in 1837, must have consumed the timber of sixty or eighty acres! What then must be the entire cost of such a war-ship, and how vast the expense of keeping it in actual service! These ships last on an average only fourteen years; and hence their place must be supplied every fourteen years.